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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W
----------052730 181556Z /41
R 171218Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7890
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3645

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, IR, ZP
SUBJ: IRANIAN CONCERN AT POSSIBLE ARAB SECURITY PACT FOR THE GULF

REF: JIDDA 2867

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS DURING HIS STOPOVER IN TEHRAN PRIOR TO JIDDA VISIT, KHONSARI EXPRESSED CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THAT MENTIONED JIDDA REFTEL, BUT WE GOT THE IMPRESSION THESE WERE INSPIRED MORE BY RUMORS HE PICKED UP IN LONDON ACADEMIC CIRCLES THAN BY CONTACTS WITH MFA OR OTHER IRANIAN OFFICIALS. IN FACT, AS OF APRIL 4, KHONSARI TOLD US HE HAD TALKED VERY LITTLE BUSINESS DURING HIS TEHRAN STOPOVER, WHEN HE WAS SEEING FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ARRANGING FOR HIS RETURN TO TEHRAN AND FUTURE WORK HERE. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT IN LONDON IS SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THAT
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HE HAS BEEN TASKED WITH A STUDY OF WHAT IRANIN POLICY SHOULD BE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA AND HAS BEEN DOING HIS RESEARCH FROM A DESK IN THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES.

2. WE WOULD AGREE WITH COMMENT REFTEL IF SAUDI ARABIAN EFFORTS TO WELD TOGETHER A SEPARATE AREA SECURITY ORGANIZATION WERE

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TRUE. HOWEVER, MFA OFFICIALS DEALING WITH THE AREA HAVE
NEVER RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH US, AND WE THINK THEY WOULD
HAVE IF IT WAS A SUBJECT OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THEM.

3. FOR MOST RECENT IRAN-SAUDI EXCHANGES ON THIS GENERAL
SUBJECT SEE TEHRAN SEPTEL REPORTING ON
DEFENSE MIER SULTAN'S VISIT HERE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AGREEMENTS, ARABS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN03645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-1182
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaabomy.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 974388ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JIDDA 2867
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2940655
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN CONCERN AT POSSIBLE ARAB SECURITY PACT FOR THE GULF
TAGS: PEPR, SA, IR, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/974388ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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